

disclose this truth to St. Joseph in order to sanctify him, to increase his merits and to unite him to Himself as closely as human creatures could be united. Nothing could accomplish this three-fold object so perfectly as suffering and especially such suffering as St. Joseph must have endured ever after hearing the sad recital;—such sufferings as perfect sanctity, crowns merit and consummates union with God. Moreover, in those thirty years of close relationship, could Jesus keep secret on His death, the object and aim of His life and of which His birth was in reality the first act? Was it not more likely that this subject was the principal topic of conversation between Jesus and His Parents, as later on His favorite theme with His Apostles? So love reasons and love is the supreme rule to be consulted when there is question of judging Jesus relations with Mary and Joseph.

St. Joseph thus saw in the future this lovely child, this comely youth, disfigured, broken and bruised, unrecognized and unknown even by His own; bound, scourged, ridiculed, insulted, treated as the vilest of men, yea, even as a worm of the earth, become the scorn of the multitude and bearing the weight and horror of all the iniquities and all the sins of the world: But the Passion did not end on Calvary and love disclosed its history to St. Joseph until the end, consequently this long period of its continuance here below: the Eucharist. Yes, the Eucharist forms part of the Passion, it is the summary before, the recapitulation after the work and a necessary sequence in the Divine plan. Moreover, how heavily it must have weighed with its annihilations in the Chalice offered to the agonizing Christ by Gethsemane's Angel and on the cross laid on His wounded shoulders! Jesus telling St. Joseph of His Passion and death at Jerusalem would naturally tell him also of its sublime extension and heroic perpetuity in the Eucharist.

This double mystery of the cross and of the altar was thus laid bare to St. Joseph, who suffered and sympathized with Its divine Victim according to the measure of his devotedness and his title of Father; so much so, that the sufferings of Calvary and the humiliations of the Eucharist penetrated his soul to such an extent that he could never free his thoughts from their anguish even for a moment.